

Menasha Lock and Dam, Lockkeeper's Residence
Approximately 75 feet east of the upper gate
Menasha
Winnebago County
Wisconsin

HAER No. WI-90-A

HAER
WIS
70-MENA,
3A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
MENASHA LOCK AND DAM, LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

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Location: The lockkeeper's residence at Menasha is located approximately 75 feet directly east of the upper lock gate in the E1/2, SW1/4, SW1/4, Section 15, T20N, R17E in the Civil Town of Mensaha, Winnebago County, Wisconsin.

UTM: 16/383320/4895200; USGS Quadrangle: Neenah, Wisconsin 7.5' Series

Date of Construction: circa 1900

Engineer: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Architect: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

Present Use: The lockkeeper's residence served as a residence for the lockkeeper and family, functioning as part of the operation of the Menasha Lock and Dam Complex.

Significance: Residence for the lockkeeper and family at the Menasha lock facility.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in 1995 in accordance with requirements detailed in a June 19, 1994 letter from Gregory D. Kendrick, Chief, History Branch, NPS to Dale Monteith, Acting Chief, Planning Division, USACOE, Detroit District. The Lower Fox system remains basically operational but was placed in caretaker status by the USACOE in 1982. The USACOE plans to divest itself of the Lower Fox system as soon as is feasible; therefore, NPS requested this documentation. All documentation conforms to HAER standards.

Dr. John D. Richards, Principal Investigator; Georgia A. Lusk, Patricia B. Richards, and Robert J. Watson, Project Archivists with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, Inc.; Joseph Paskus, Project Photographer.

LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

The lockkeeper's residence at Menasha is located approximately 102 feet due east of the centerline of the lock. The exact date of construction is unknown. However, the house was in place prior to 1903 when it was reported that the north wing shed roof was resingled with tin Eastlake shingles.¹ In 1904, a doorway was cut and door installed between the sitting room and bedroom.² The roofs on the house and tool shed were resingled, cement floor was laid in the basement and hardwood floor was installed in the sitting room in addition to a wood shed being added at the rear of the house in 1909.³ No other revisions or repairs to the lockkeeper's residence have been reported.

The lockkeeper's dwelling is a 1 1/2 story wood frame Colonial Revival saltbox. The structure is essentially similar to the lockkeeper's residence at Rapide Croche. The following description is based on information contained in a 1926 construction drawing illustrating installation of a central heating system. This data was supplemented by reference to plans of the Rapide Croche residence and visual inspection of the Menasha structure. One centrally located gabled dormer protrudes from the southern half of the asphalt-shingled moderately pitched roof. The original open air front porch has been modified to a dropped, hipped roof enclosure. Outside dimensions of the main block are 34 feet north to south and 30 feet east to west. The interior walls are constructed from 2 inch by 4 inch studs and corner posts. Lower floor joists are 2 inches by 10 inches while upper floor joists are 2 inches by 8 inches. Floor joists rest on 2 inch by 8 inch stringers. Roof rafters are constructed of 2 inch by 4 inch reinforced with 2 inch by 6 inch tie beams. Aluminum siding was placed on the house circa 1980.

Access to the basement is through a centrally located stairway from the kitchen on the first floor. The foundation is constructed of 18 inch thick poured concrete. Two standard wooden framed basement windows (2 feet 6 inches by 10 inches) are situated in the west and north walls. A 12 inch thick wall divides the basement into southern and northern halves. The southern half of the basement is not excavated. The remaining (northern) portion of the basement is divided into three rooms. Two smaller rooms occupy the western half of the finished basement. The northernmost room is a coal bin measuring 7 feet north to south by 6 feet east to west. A door on the east wall exits the room. The second room is situated south of the coal bin. The room is 5 feet by 6 feet and was intended to serve as a fruit cellar. The remaining finished basement area measures 14 feet 4 inches by 26 feet. A cistern is located in the northeast corner of this area.

The first floor plan of the Menasha lockkeeper's residence consists of five rooms, a vestibule, and two staircases. Floor to ceiling height ranges from 8 feet in the northern half of the house to 8 feet 6 inches in the southern portion. Entrance from the porch to the main block of the house is through a 2 foot 10 inch by 5 foot vestibule. Doorways are located in the east and west walls. A 12 foot by 16 foot 9 1/2 inch dining room is in the southeast corner of the house. The room contains three wooden framed windows with double hung sashes. Two are situated in the east wall and one is in the south wall. A stairway to the second floor occupies the northwest corner of the room. Above the stairway and accessed through a door from the dining room is a 2 foot 10 inch square closet. A doorway in the north wall enters the kitchen. This room measures 12 feet 10 inches by 15 feet 3 inches. Two wooden framed windows with double hung sashes light the east wall. A door in the north wall exits to the outside. The southwest corner of the kitchen contains a stairwell accessing the basement. Directly adjacent to the west of the kitchen is a bathroom. The room measures 10 feet by 4 feet and harbors a north facing window. West of the bathroom, in the northwest corner of the house there is a 10 foot 3 inch by 15 foot 3 inch bedroom. Two windows light the west and north walls. In 1926, a 4 foot by 5 foot side porch and exterior door were situated off the west facing wall.⁴ A single window has since replaced the porch and the door. In the southeast corner of the room, a small closet (3 feet by 1 foot 2 inches) is located above the

basement stairway. In the south wall of the bedroom, a doorway leads to a living room. This room measures 12 feet by 16 feet 9 1/2 inches. Previously, there were two windows in the west wall.⁵ Presently, only one of the north wall windows remain.

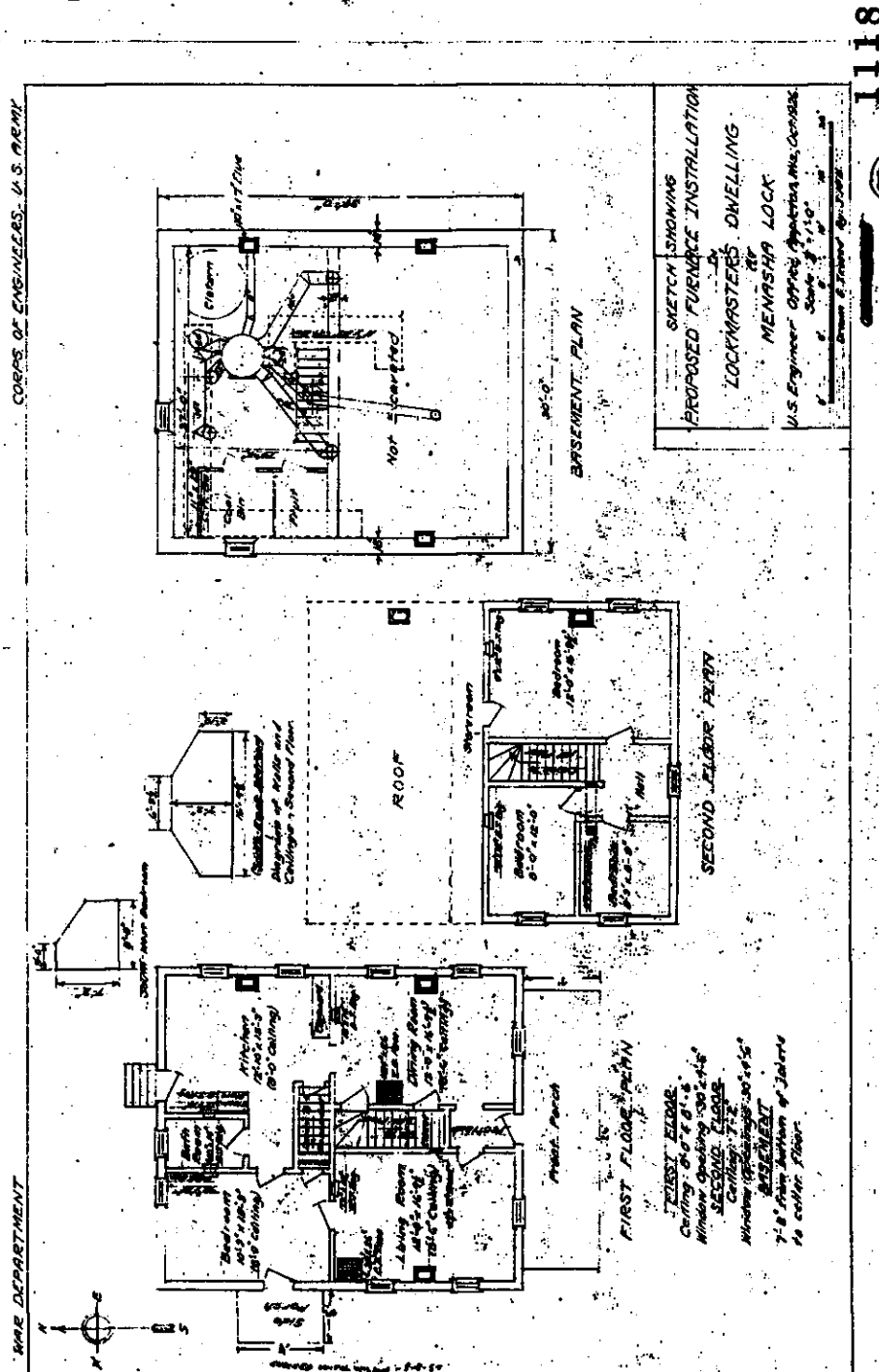
The 1926 plan for the Proposed Furnace Installation in the Lockmaster's Dwelling depicts four windows on the east wall of the first floor and two windows on the west wall of the first floor. Two windows were situated on the east and west walls of the second floor. All of the windows measured 30 inches by 4 feet 6 inches and were wooden framed with double hung sashes. Since 1929, the fenestration on both floors has been altered. Aside from the dormer, there are now only two windows on the second floor. Four windows remain on the east wall of the first floor. However, all appear to have been altered subsequent to 1929. The west wall of the first floor presently contains one window, in approximately the same place as the former doorway. A single three paned, casement window has been installed replacing both west wall windows.

The second floor consists of three bedrooms and a hallway. The stairway enters into the 6 foot 6 inch square hallway. A gabled dormer window lights the south wall of the hallway. A doorway in the west wall provides entrance to a 8 foot 3 inch by 8 foot 9 inch bedroom. A doorway in the north wall of the hallway, adjacent to the west of the stairway, leads to a 8 foot by 12 foot bedroom. To the east, through a doorway in the east wall of the hallway is a 12 foot by 16 foot 9 1/2 inch bedroom. The maximum ceiling height is 7 feet 2 inches on the second floor. A 3 foot by 30 foot storeroom is situated adjacent to the easternmost bedroom. This storeroom extends the width of the house and is accessed through a doorway in the north wall of the bedroom. Presently there are three windows lighting the second floor. The 1926 plans depict two wooden framed windows with double hung sashes on both the east and west walls and a single similar window on the south facing wall.⁶ Apparently, the present south gable dormer was added subsequent to 1926.

ENDNOTES

- 1 U.S. Army, Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1903, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, p. 1875.
- 2 U.S. Army, Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1904, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, p. 2854.
- 3 U.S. Army, Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1905, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, p. 1983.
- 4 USACOE, Proposed Furnace Installation in Lockmaster's Dwelling at Menasha Lock, 1926, File #1118.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.

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Photocopy of sketch showing Proposed Furnace Installation in Lockmaster's Dwelling at Menasha Lock, File #1118.